



STRATEGIES TO EMPOWER PEOPLE PROGRAM (STEP)

The Strategies to Empower People (STEP) Program is the result of the Personal Responsibility and Universal Engagement Act of 2003 passed by the Louisiana Legislature. The purpose of STEP is to provide opportunities for work-eligible Family Independence Temporary Assistance Program (FITAP) recipients to receive job preparation, work and supportive services to enable them to leave the program to become self-sufficient.

The intense team-based interaction between the Department of Labor and partnering agencies: Department of Education, Workforce Commission, and the Louisiana Technical and Community College System, will allow participants to be assessed and evaluated to determine their interest, abilities, and basic skill levels. The Louisiana Department of Labor and partnering agencies will assist the FITAP recipients in acquiring the skills required to successfully transition to employment and self-sufficiency.

The Department of Labor and the Local Workforce Investment Areas (LWIAs) are working together to provide the job readiness component. The job readiness component consists of a training curriculum featuring 20 modules that are divided into four major sections:

- *Getting To Know Yourself*
- *Opening the Door to Employment*
- *Selling Yourself to Employers*
- *On the Job Success*



The LWIAs participating in STEP are:

First Planning District #10 (St. Bernard); **Jefferson Parish #11** (West Jefferson, East Jefferson); **New Orleans #12** (New Orleans); **St. Charles #14** (St. John the Baptist); **Workforce Investment Program #20** (Ascension, Iberville, Livingston, Pointe Coupee, Tangipahoa, West Baton Rouge, Washington); **City of Baton Rouge, EBR #21** (East Baton Rouge, East Baton Rouge North); **Lafourche Parish Council #31** (Assumption, Lafourche, and Terrebone); **Local Workforce Investment Board #40** (Evangeline, Iberia, St. Landry, St. Martin, St. Mary, Vermillion); **Lafayette Parish LWIA #41** (Lafayette); **Calcasieu Parish Police Jury #51** (Calcasieu); **LaSalle Community Action #60** (Avoyelles, Concordia, Grant, Winn); **Rapides Parish #61** (Rapides Parish); **The Coordinating and Development Corporation #70** (Bossier, Natchitoches, Lincoln); **City of Shreveport #71** (Caddo), **Ouachita Parish #81** (Ouachita Parish), **Union Parish Consortium #82** (Morehouse); **Workforce Investment Board #83** (East Carroll, Madison)

For more information on the STEP Program, contact Cynthia Douglas, STEP Project Director cdouglas@ldol.state.la.us or phone 225-342-7632. You can also visit the Department of Social Services website at www.dss.state.la.us